

“What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?”

— Henry David Thoreau

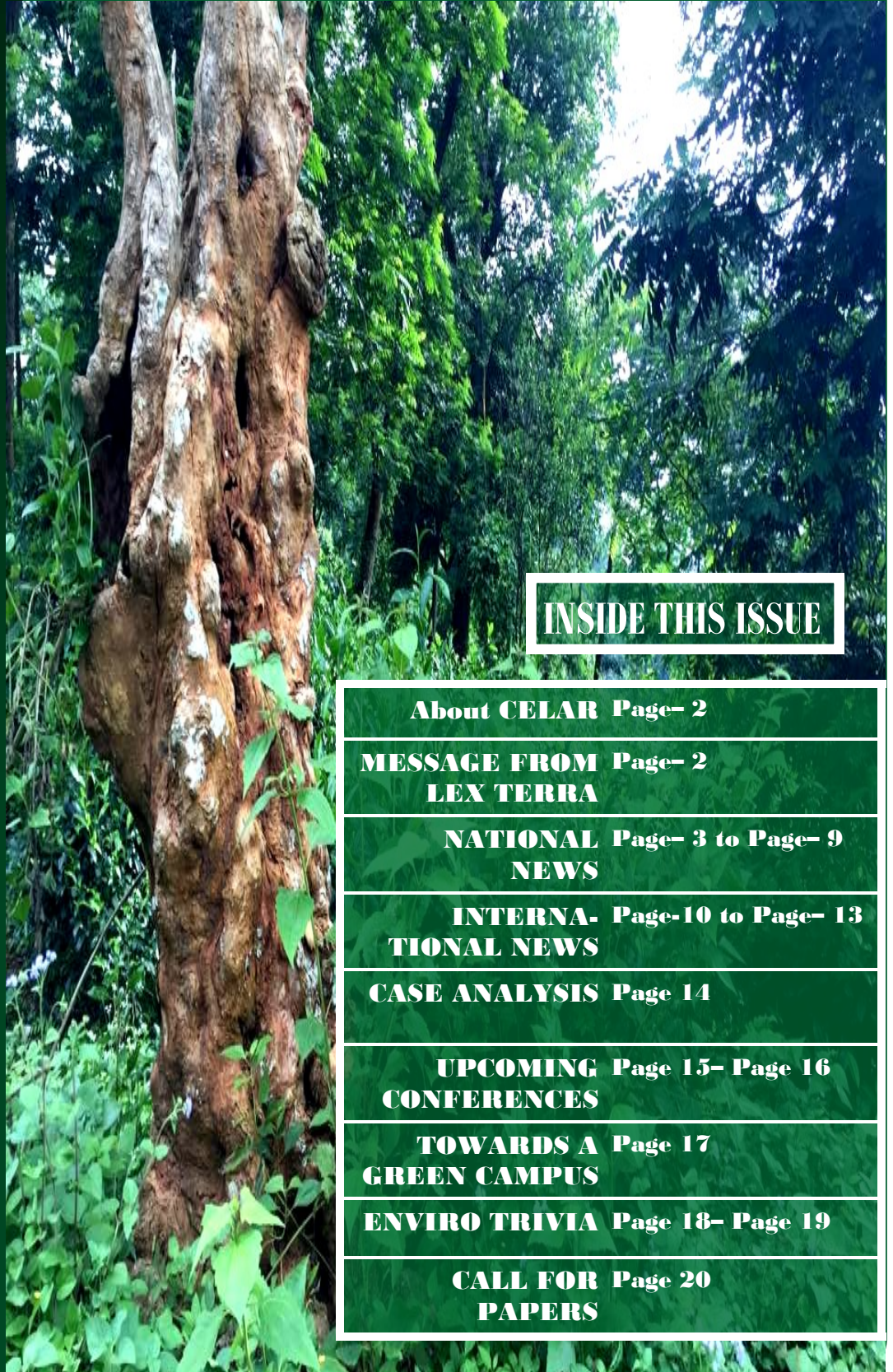
Lex Terra

News Updates on Environmental Law

ISSUE 4

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The rate at which we are exploiting the Earth at present is at its highest. A bit of awareness can help change this. *Lex Terra* is a mode of creating awareness. An effort made by the Seventh Semester Environmental Law Specialisation Students of B.A.,LL.B, it is an extension of a classroom exercise which the students under Asstt. Prof. Chiradeep Basak intend to put forward to the entire family of NLU-A. A bit of contribution here and a bit of contribution there from each one of us is what the Earth desperately needs at this point of time. Through *Lex Terra*, the students intend to highlight important happenings in the field of Environment which we all must be aware of. Every issue of *Lex Terra* would be a collection of various Environment specific news items which will be touching various facets of environmental law as well. Law is the best instrument to usher in any kind of change and change in our approach towards our interaction with the environment is a necessity right now.



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About CELAR

The primary mission of Centre for Environmental Law, Advocacy and Research (CELAR) of National Law University, Assam is to engage in advocacy and research on public interest environmental issues. For the purpose, it will organize workshops and seminars to educate and develop skills, convene conferences to promote exchange of ideas, conduct training programmes for capacity building in environmental law issues, undertake research on legal concerns and publish

periodically, newsletters and journals.

The objectives of the CELAR are as follows:

- To inspire and educate students by providing hand-on advocacy experience and direct exposure to the issues.
- Strengthen access to justice by undertaking high quality multi-disciplinary research on contemporary legal issues pertaining to environment.
- Advocate for reforms in environmental law through

scientifically sound legislative proposals.

- Organise training programmes for strengthening the legal capacity building on environmental laws doe civil servants, law enforcement authorities, non-governmental organizations and media personnel.
- Publish periodically journals and newsletters on environmental law.

— **Professor (Dr.) Yugal Kishore,**
Centre Head, CELAR

Message from Team *Lex Terra*

“FROM THINK GLOBALLY TO ACT LOCALLY” we have moved ahead to “UNITE GLOBALLY AND PARTICIPATE LOCALLY”.

The emphasis is on sustainable existence to save our blue planet. It delights us to note that the latest issue of LEX TERRA is being released at a time when United Nations has successfully tabled the draft agreement of our future climate change law in Bonn Climate Conference and the eleventh part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) is about to happen. These small incremental developments will always lead to greater change, which eventually will result in global revolution. This is a sincere endeavor in that track.

We congratulate the Lex Terra team for its praiseworthy collective efforts.

The team of *Lex Terra* wishes to thank all of those who supported this initiative. We would like to express out gratitude to our respected Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar for his continuous support and timely inputs. We would like to thank Prof. (Dr.) Yugal Kishore, the Centre Head of CELAR for his help and encouragement. Lastly, we would like to thank Mr. Chiradeep Basak, Centre Co-ordinator of CELAR, who has been a source of inspiration from the outset, along-side his unrelenting contribution to all phases of the job, from planning, to setting clear goals and appraising the outcome.

Please keep pouring down your never ending support and concern for mother nature.

Thank you
Happy Reading!



Courtesy- Google

NATIONAL NEWS

HUNDREDS OF NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED IN THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS

-Abhishek Chakravarty, 4th Year

The Eastern Himalayas which encompasses Bhutan, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Northern Myanmar is one of the richest global biodiversity hotspot. The Eastern Himalayas are now known to harbour a staggering 10,000 plant species, 300 mammal species, 977 bird species, 176 reptiles, 105 amphibians and 269 types of freshwater fish. The region also has the highest density of the Bengal tiger and is the last bastion of the charismatic greater One-Horned Rhino, the Asiatic Wild buffalo, the Pygmy Hog and the Eastern Swamp Deer. Recently, scientists discovered 133 plants, 26 species of fish, 10 species of amphibians, and one mammal in the same eco region adding more numbers to the species list. Among the species discovered, one is a monkey which, sneezes whenever it rains and also a fish, which can survive out of water for 4 days.

This is not the first time that such a large number of species had been

discovered in the eco region. In a similar study done in 2009, more than 350 new species were discovered - including 244 plants, 16 amphibians, 16 reptiles, 14 fish, 2 birds, 2 mammals and at least 60 new invertebrates. Among them, were a bright green flying frog and also the 'Leaf Deer', the smallest and oldest species of deer on earth.

Ravi Singh, CEO of WWF-India and Chair of the WWF Living Himalayas Initiative recently remarked on it saying that, "I am excited that the region – home to a staggering number of species including, some of the most charismatic fauna – continues to surprise the world with the nature and pace of species discovery." However, the region faces a lot of threat due to the ever growing population of India and also illegal immigration from Bangladesh. The upcoming dams in the region, also pose a lot of threat to the biodiversity.

Historically, the rugged and largely inaccessible landscape of the Eastern

Himalayas has made biological surveys in the region extremely difficult. As a result, wildlife has remained poorly surveyed and there are large areas that are still biologically unexplored.

Today however, further species continue to be unearthed and many more species of amphibians, reptiles and fish are currently in the process of being officially named by scientists. The Eastern Himalayas is certainly one of the last biological frontiers of Asia with many new discoveries waiting to be made. The world at a large including the United Nations Organization must ensure that special protection is given to the region for the protection of its rich biodiversity, which once lost would never be revived again.

(Courtesy: Aditi Malhotra, "Newly Spotted in the Himalayas: A Sneezing Monkey, a Blue-Eyed Frog and a Walking Snakehead Fish", The Wall Street Journal, October 9th, 2015; The Guardian UK, October 5th, 2015; Press release, World Wildlife Fund, October, 2015.)

STONE CRUSHERS SEEK ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE EXEMPTION

- Akshat Kumar, 3rd Year

Stone crushers in the state have demanded that, they be exempted from environmental clearance (EC) from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). Recently, Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered earlier this year that, even existing mines of minor minerals need EC to function, else they would be closed down. Addressing a press confer-

ence on Friday, MP Stone Crusher Industries Association President Devender Pal Singh Chawla claimed it was in contravention of 2012 Supreme Court order by which existing mines didn't need green clearance. Chawla said, "We will move the Supreme Court in this regard for relief. In 2012, SC order in Deepak Kumar vs. State of Haryana expressly made it clear that existing mines don't

need an EC. Only mines of minor minerals under 5 hectares going for renewal or fresh licence require an EC." [Courtesy- <http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>]

EFFORTS ON TO MAKE TEA INDUSTRY CLIMATE-SMART IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

- Anurupa Chetia, 5th Year

Climate change is the main cause for the degradation of agro based industries, one being, the tea industry. Tea, a rain-fed perennial crop is known as one of the most popular beverage. The physiology of tea plants is closely linked to external environmental and climatic factors (elevation, precipitation, temperature, soil moisture, temperature and fertility, light duration and intensity, humidity, shelter, shade and CO₂ concentration) and any adversity in these conditions can significantly impact yield, revenue and livelihood security. Rainfall has traditionally been plentiful for growing tea, especially in North-Eastern part of India but, with recent changes in the climate, surface and ground water are becoming important irrigation systems.

Usually, Climate-risk is high in Assam, ranging from annual flooding of the Brahmaputra river due to intense

monsoon rains and soil water-logging, to winter precipitation deficits with seasonal droughts. But, in the present time due to climate change, regional trends indicate annual mean minimum temperatures have increased and annual mean precipitation has decreased, particularly in Assam. Such impacts will have a significant effect on tea crop productivity and directly affect the livelihoods of dependent communities as Assam contributes 50 percent of India's 1,200- odd million kg. The effects, which were noticed over the last few years, seem to have become pronounced over the last three years. ITA officials said that the weather was hardly following any pattern. What worries the industry most is not any major crop loss (so far) but, deterioration of tea quality and increase of pest-attacks. However, there has been crop loss during seasons, when some of the best teas are harvested.

Therefore, a project has been launched by the Tea Research Association along with Southampton University on climate — smartening tea plantation landscapes, which would run for two years. It is funded by the U.K.-India Research Initiative. The project is investigating the impact of climate change on tea production and livelihoods in North-East India, revolving around climate variability, land-management practices and climate-smart agriculture practices. Broad-scale climate-landscape modelling predicts that, tea yields in North-East India are expected to decline by 40 percent by 2050. As yield is directly associated with revenue, changing climate is also likely to impact economic structures of those reliant on tea, particularly the smallholders. (Courtesy: Indrani Dutta, The Hindu, Kolkata, October 5, 2015)

SC DIRECTS TO IMPOSE ENVIRONMENT CESS ON COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ENTERING DELHI

-Raman Virk, 3rd Year

The Supreme Court of India on 9th October 2015 indicated that, it would impose an Environment Compensatory Charge (ECC) ranging from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,300 on commercial vehicles entering Delhi as a transit route for their onward journey; the order of which was reserved to be pronounced on 12th October 2015. The Apex Court Bench of Chief Justice HL Dattu, Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel indicated this.

However, exemption from the Environment Cess would be provided to commercial vehicles carrying essential commodities, foodstuff, passengers and emergency vehicles, including ambulances. This imposition of ECC would be for four months on

an experiment basis and the money collected would go to the Delhi Government.

Further, the Delhi Government told the court that, it would issue a notification in this regard after the Apex Court passed a formal order. This would give wide publicity to the directions of the court.

It was on October 5, that the SC had asked the Centre and Delhi Government to positively respond to a plea seeking levy of 'Pollution Compensatory Charges', along with toll tax, on commercial vehicles plying in the national capital, with the Chief Justice and a senior lawyer observing that, they and their kin too were victims of the alarming pollution levels. Chief Justice H L Dattu had said, "My grandson wears mask due to pollution," when Senior Advocate Harish

Salve had submitted that, he had to take steroid for the first time a few days ago. "My wife has asthma. My daughter has asthma and I had to take steroid first time two days back," Salve had also said.

Justice Dattu and advocate Harish Salve favored wide coverage of the discourse on the matter in the Supreme Court. "This is a serious issue. We want positive response," the Bench, also comprising Justices Arun Mishra and Adarsh Kumar Goel, said. Salve, (who was the in a 1985 PIL filed by environmentalist M C Mehta), termed the situation as "alarming" and sought urgent intervention of the court before it worsened further with the onset of winter. (Courtesy: Standard, Press Trust of India, New Delhi October 5, 2015)

ENVIRONMENT STUDY HAS FAILED TO COVER ALL FLANKS

The primary aim of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is to gauge the potential environmental impact of an economic project, so as to allow for measures to minimize that impact. The methodology adopted is that of self-assessment by the project proponent followed by review and project approval by the regulators. However, the EIA process in India faces several critical challenges. The primary being the need for greater transparency, ensuring accountability of regulators and improving the quality of public participation.

A thriving and recent criticism faced by the EIA was at the Coal Bed Methane projects over an extent of 691 sq km in Thanjavur and Tiruvarur District. An Expert Technical Committee was formed by the Government to look into the matter of exploration and production of coal bed methane project of M/S Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited in the Mannargudi Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block in Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts, proposed either rejection or review of the project.

Criticising, the panel wanted a more detailed EIA, that would throw light on vital information such as the hydro-geological history of the block, trace element data etc. The Committee Report stated that over 25 years of production life, the quantum of gas proposed to be extracted from all the CBM blocks might be two million cubic metres per day, just enough to fire a 450 MW power plant for 25 years. That was not a substantial quantum of energy considering the other adverse impacts of the project.

The Panel made the following observations –

- The rice production in the target area of 4,266 acres of fertile land would feed 2.77 lakh people lifelong. But, the production phase of the project would benefit just 1,000 skilled or semi-skilled workers daily.
- United Nations Development Programme had investigated the area and suggested that methane exploration would lead to land subsidence, leading to geotectonic movement.

Geetashree S. Kurup, 5th Year

- Continuous withdrawal of groundwater on a large scale would further deplete its level affecting the people of the region.
- Toxic emission and atmospheric thermal inversion would take place thereby causing reduction in rainfall.
- The Vaduvur Birds Sanctuary located might be affected by way of noise pollution, atmospheric heat and toxicity that might force the birds migrate.
- Thousands of gas wells drilled could never be removed and there was always the lurking danger of gas pipeline explosion inflicting irreparable damage to life, property and ecology.

The current EIA needs several improvements. The key factors include considering the consent conditions, involvement of the local community in the monitoring programs and greater transparency in the whole process.

KALIASOT GREEN BELT: NGT BHOPAL LIFTS 200 M RIDER

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has lifted a ban on development permission and constructions along Kaliasot River in Bhopal within 200 metres of the green belt area. Now, construction activity would be restricted only in the green belt area, which are 33 metres on either side from the riverbank. However, developers have been ordered not to give

possession of flats to residents unless they have received completion certificates from the civic body or if they haven't applied for/fulfilled environmental clearance (EC) from state environment impact assessment authority (SEIAA). Besides, respective developers would have to carry out afforestation activities in the green belt area. In a major relief to residents, several major

Akshat Kumar, 3rd Year

developers and BDA project whose constructions were stalled for last six months around Kaliasot River, NGT central zone bench has allowed construction in the 200 metres from green belt area. (Courtesy : www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/)

Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.

- Stewart Udall

HARYANA GOVT LAUNCHES ADOPTION SCHEME FOR BIRDS AND ANIMALS

— Swastik, 4th Year

In order to generate love for wildlife among people, the State Government has launched a scheme for the adoption of birds or animals. Elucidating, Haryana Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh said that, any person from the State could adopt any bird or animal kept in zoos or deer parks by giving certain amount for a fixed period of time. The name of adopter of bird or animal is displayed on the board outside the related zoo or deer park and the adopter and his family are allowed free entry in any zoo or deer park in the State for 12 times in a year.

Singh also informed that, the State Government has established three zoos and one deer park in order to inform the people, especially students about wildlife. Also two National Parks, eight Wildlife Sanctuaries and two Wildlife Conservation Areas

have been established in the state. Speaking about the concrete steps being taken by the state government for the conservation and preservation of rare wildlife species, Singh said that, the conservation and preservation of wild life is of utmost importance for the expansion of forest area and ensuring natural balance in view of the changing landscapes and increasing air and water pollution. He said that, Peacock and Chinkara Breeding Centre has been established in Jhabua Reserve Forest area in Rewari. Similarly, in order to check the declining number of vultures and increase their population, Vulture Conservation and Breeding Centre has been established in Pinjore. In Pheasant Breeding Centre located in Morni, the species of Red Jungle Fowl are successfully being bred. In Bhiwani, Chinkara Breeding Centre has been established in Kairu village and Crocodile Breeding Centre in Bhor Saidan, added

Singh.

This kind of activity or program will include people in the conservation process of the wildlife and somewhat reduce the burden of the Government upon managing wildlife related issues. Government is a mere representation of the people and this kind of approach will allow people to volunteer themselves in order to protect wildlife. But the question that lingers is; how will people react to this sort of program? Will they be serious? Secondly, will the animals so adopted be provided with the proper kind of environment required for them? Will they be treated properly and not used for personal gains? The policy doesn't provide with any penalty or sanction that will be applicable upon the person if, they misuse this kind of opportunity. (Courtesy- Rao Jaswant Singh, TOI, 6 October 2015)

INDIA TO SIMPLIFY INTER-STATE TRANSMISSION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Government of India had announced in the financial budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 to expand renewable energy capacity by 2022. A major step is taken by the Indian Government, that is to reduce the regulatory hurdles in order to achieve the highly ambitious target of installing 175GW by 2022.

The Indian Minister for Power, Coal and Renewable Energy announced to remove the fee levied on transmission of power generated from renewable energy project between two states, it's a crucial step towards creating an "enabling and overarching framework" to make renewable energy viable for the common man added the Minister. Currently, supply of power from one state to the other attracts a regulatory fee payable to the transmission

utility which directly adds to the final cost of power for the end user. The Government of India is looking to set up large scale renewable energy projects across the country under its target to have 175 GW renewable energy capacity by 2022. This project would mainly include setting up large scale Hybrid Solar and Wind Energy Projects, but since solar and wind energy resources are not distributed evenly across the country most of these projects are expected to be concentrated in specific states.

Removing regulatory charges may also have a significant impact on the tariff bids quoted by private sector project developers in the upcoming solar power auctions. Moreover, companies who are looking to develop projects outside the scope of such auctions will be benefited

- Md. Gulam Ashraf, 4th Year

the most. All over the world, economic growth is driven by energy, either in the form of finite resources such as coal, oil and gas or in renewable form such as hydropower, wind, solar, etc. The energy generation helps in empowering a nation's industries, vehicles, homes and offices, and it also has a significant impact on the quality of air, water, land and forest resources of a country. In a country like, India where the population is increasing day by day and where millions of people still do not have access to electricity it is important to address issues which are being faced by the power sector, one being 'regulatory charges'. Reducing regulatory charges will give incentive to boost the development of power system in India. (Courtesy- by Smiti Mittal, Clean Technica October 12th, 2015)

NGT SLAMS ASSAM GOVT OVER DELAY IN REPORT ON KAZIRANGA

The National Green Tribunal has slammed Assam Government for delay in preparing a Project Report on measures to curb growing wildlife casualties due to vehicular movement on the national highway passing through the Kaziranga National Park. The Green Panel took exception to the fact that, it had directed the State Government on April 22, 2015 to come up with a Detailed Project Report (DPR) within three months, but no such report has been filed yet. "Secretary, Environment and Forest, Assam will file a personal affidavit stating as to why the DPR in relation to construction of the road has not been filed. Further, he shall advert to all the issues that have been raised in the order of the Tribunal passed in the present case," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said.

The NGT also directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take

clear instructions as to whether or not it proposed to issue any draft notification in relation to Kaziranga Eco Sensitive Zone. The Assam government had earlier told the bench that DPR is to be prepared in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun and the Director of Kaziranga National Park, home to the famous one-horned rhinos.

The tribunal's direction came during a hearing on a plea filed by environmentalist Rohit Choudhury opposing expansion of NH-37, which passes from Jakkhalabandha to Bokakhat through the Kaziranga Park.

It had earlier ordered a ban on roadside shops and eateries along the animal corridors near Kaziranga, among a slew of directions in the wake of increasing wildlife casualties due to vehicular movement on the adjacent highway. The Green Panel had also asked the Assam Government to ensure fixation of sensor-operated automatic

- Noor Kutub Alam, 4th Year

barriers at the animal corridors and ascertain whether speed check cameras were in working condition or not.

This event clearly shows the casual attitude opted by the Government regarding fulfilling or complying with the orders of the NGT as well as that of the duties and power vested upon them, that are to be exercised in order to preserve the environment. It is not only the case of Assam Government, this kind of incidents can be seen throughout the country where different projects are passed without following proper procedure or having an EIA (Environment Impact Assessment). The whole blame can't be put upon the Government, problems like population expansion, unemployment are also to be blamed. (Courtesy- Press Trust of India ,New Delhi, 1 October 2015)

DIWALI AND ITS IMPACT — BURDEN LIES ON THE SUPREME COURT

In a first of its kind petition in judicial history, three infants - two six-month-old Arjun Gopal and Aarav Bhandari and 14-month-old Zoya Rao Bhasin - moved the Supreme Court through their fathers by a way of Writ Petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, to seek several measures to mitigate pollution and exercise their right to clean air guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The infants sought following directions from the court to the Government on a ban on burning post-harvest crop residue, stringent action against those who dump dust, malba (concrete waste) and other pollutants and introducing Bharat-V emission norms for vehicles.

Pooja Dhar, the advocate for the Petitioners, demanded among other things, a total ban on the use of firecrackers, sparklers, and explosives during festivals like Dussehra and Diwali. The plea stressed on their right to be brought up in a pollution-free environment and also sought that the government agencies should be restrained from issuing license for sale of crackers in the national capital. The plea further said that, the widespread use of firecrackers in Delhi during the festive season exposed vulnerable infants to severe diseases such as; asthma and worsens lung condition. The Petitioner further said that, a 2005

- Abhishek Rawat & Raman Virk, 3rd Year

top court ruling restricting use of fireworks beyond 10 pm had brought some respite to Delhi'ites, but studies thereafter revealed that, cases of wheezing, respiratory diseases, exacerbation of bronchial asthma and bronchitis increase by 40 per cent during Diwali.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice H L Dattu transferred the plea to the Special Social Justice Bench which will hear the matter on October 16, 2015 and sought responses from the governments and CPCB and would examine feasibility of an interim order on October 16 after getting responses from governments. (Courtesy: Business Standard, PTI, October 6, 2015)

LAW STUDENT GREENS PUJA CELEBRATIONS

- Rashmi Patowary, 5th Year

This year's Puja Celebrations have received a new meaning in Assam. A thousand praises to the initiatives of Anjan Tamuli (First Year Student from Jorhat Law College). The artisan hidden in Anjan has undertaken the brave initiative of making puja celebrations pollution free, by making idols from newspapers instead of toxic chemicals and paints. He has created a 6 feet tall idol of Durga along with Saraswati, Lakshmi, Ganesh, Karthik and Mahishasura with newspaper.

"Last year I had made a small idol of the

Goddess with newspaper and had immersed the idol in a nearby pond. I found that the paper dissolved rapidly and that small fish were nibbling at the gum made of flour boiled in water. No harm came to the fishes and so this year I decided to make a bigger idol." Tamuli said.

Anjan's step is a creative solution to the numerous criticisms of the environmentalists (across the nation) that came against the immersion of lakhs of idols yearly, destroying the fragile ecosystem. The environmentalist in Anjan is also

eager to create awareness of various other issues, such as; BTAD violence, Rhino killings, Witch Hunting and fractured unity.

(Courtesy-

The Telegraph, 13 October 2015)

S.O. 2543 (E) [15-09-2015]: DRAFT NOTIFICATION DECLARING ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE AROUND THE GANDHI SAGAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH

-Irfan Hasieb, 4th Year

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the draft notification numbered S.O. 2543(E) dated the 15th of September, 2015. This draft notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 was released for the consideration of the public who are supposed to be affected by it.

The Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh and the area, adjoining Rajasthan is a dry deciduous forest, consisting mainly of *Anogeissus Pendula*, *Acacia Catechu* and *Boswellia Serrate* communities and their associated flora and is free from human habitation. The area is also very rich in biodiversity consisting 70 tree species, 23 herbs and shrubs species, 9 climbers and parasites, 16 grasses and bamboo species, 18 mammals, 65 birds, 14 fish, 17 reptiles, 5 species of amphibians and

15 species of butterfly have been so far recorded in the sanctuary.

The notification stresses on the need to conserve and protect the area, the extent and the boundaries of which is specified in the notification around the sanctuary as Eco-Sensitive Zone from an environmental and ecological point of view and to prohibit industries or a class of industries and their operations and processes in the said eco-sensitive zone.

As per paragraph 1 of the notification the Eco-Sensitive Zone extends to an area of up to 3 km around the boundary of the sanctuary. For the purpose of the Eco-Sensitive Zone, the State Government shall prepare a Zonal Master Plan within a period of two years from the date of the publication of the notification in the Official Gazette which, is to be

further approved by the Competent Authority in the State Government. The said Master Plan shall be prepared in consultation with all concerned State Departments namely, Environment, Forest, Urban Development, Tourism, Municipal, Revenue, Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh State Board, Irrigation and public Works Department.

Further, the State Government is directed to take measures on issues related to Land Use, Natural Springs, Tourism, Natural Heritage, Man-made Heritage Site, Noise Pollution, Air Pollution, Discharge of effluents, Solid Wastes, Bio-medical waste, Vehicular Traffic and Industrial Units. Further, paragraph 4 of the notification provides for a list of activities which are to be either prohibited or regulated within the specified Eco-Sensitive Zone which, includes various commercial activities.

THE HAVOC OF ASSAM FLOODS!

- Gobin Taye, 5th Year

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said that, the situation of flood was serious in Dhemaji, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts in eastern Assam, where more than 700 villages remained submerged for more than two days in the month of August 2015. Most areas in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh towns also remained submerged due to flash floods. The ASDMA found a reports that people, including a child, were washed away by the flood waters. A total of 662 villages are submerged in Dhemaji district. Around one lakh hectares of crop land are under water. While the Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger level in Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Dhubri, the Rangodi river has breached the danger mark in parts of Lakhimpur district. Similarly, the Jia Bharali is flowing above the danger level at Sonitpur. Other rivers which have risen menacingly include Puthimari and Beki in lower Assam and the Kushiara in Karimganj district. Authorities in Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh have to shut down educational institutions due to the effects of flood every year.

The biggest disadvantage one faces while dealing with any natural calamity is its unpredictability, and the inevitable element of surprise. If an imminent disaster is predictable, steps can be taken in a direction, which might actually help one in either overcoming it, or at least reducing the losses to a minimum. Floods in Assam are an exception. Although, the magnitude of the floods may vary, a majority of the districts of Assam are submerged every year by flood waters. Given its predictability, one might assume that this disaster is, on a whole, undesirable occurrence. Is it due a lack of intent, or due to the complexity of the situation, the threat of floods has not been

reduced at all in the past fifteen years. It became a common factor for the State of Assam that every summer, a ritual monsoon brings devastating flood waters to the doorsteps of the people; the poor villagers especially suffer immense loss. And, we go through in the daily news papers of the State citing that, "relief and rescue operations had been stepped up in all the affected areas and has announced flood relief fund for repair and rehabilitation works in the flood-affected area of the state". My question is , Why should the state always wait for the predictable disaster to actually strike? Why cant the fund be released beforehand so to build preventive measures. It is found in a report that 33, 000 crores that have been spent in the State, since 1954 in the name of flood management. It is the sign of a Government's escapism that, it can spend huge amounts on relief after a disaster has taken place and also the government does not care if people die and their dead bodies are washed away in flood waters. The amount of money that has been spent on relief, if spent on infrastructural development to prevent floods could not only reduce the loss of life and property, but would also be economically viable for the government.

The most popular flood control measure in Assam undertaken so far is the construction of over 4000 km of earth embankments. But, the embankments that have been constructed in various places in Assam are substandard, and thus, easily eroded by the flood waters in many places. The second strategy of flood mitigation is dredging the river beds; this is especially significant with respect to the Brahmaputra and its tributaries since their beds over the years and exacerbated flooding around their banks; however, no significant dredging has been attempted so far. The dredged material can be programmatically used for filling low lying areas,

and they can be reclaimed for building housing on higher grounds. This modern housing is likely to encourage people to relocate for their protection against flood.

The second aspect of floods in Assam is its environmental consequence. Every year huge number of animals are losing their lives in the Kaziranga National Park alone, including endangered species like the rare one-horned rhinos which Assam boasts of as a State Animal. People, who have lost their homes are still defecating out in the open. The dead bodies of human beings as well as wild animals that have been washed out by flood have contaminated even ground water. This increases the risk of water-borne diseases in the flood-affected areas. In the past, a huge section of the population of Assam has got afflicted to diseases like Malaria, Typhoid and Cholera, just after devastating floods. As we know, Majuli, the largest riverine island in the world, with its wide blue sky, holy river floating across the banks, and beautiful landscape is the best example. Scientists have recently announced that, the Majuli will vanish in 15-20 years. It is the duty of the Government to take necessary steps to save the island from getting submerged. The last but perhaps the most significant aspect of flood control is implementation without corruption. The upper level should give up corrupt practices in implementing flood control projects. With a rampant corruption culture in the Assamese society, this may be asking for too much sacrifice of personal enrichment is a pre-requisite to saving assam and gives it a solid foundation for progress, peace, and prosperity. (Courtesy- Jagan, 31 August 2015)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

- Tushar Solanki, 3rd Year

Thirty-two countries and several international organizations have pledged new and tougher action on combating the wildlife trade during the Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Kasane, Botswana (27th March 2015). The signatories committed to strengthen legislation and ensure harsher penalties for financial crimes related to the illegal wildlife trade. They also reaffirmed a zero-tolerance policy for corruption, which will be conducive to the due prosecution and sentencing of kingpins controlling the illegal wildlife trade.

Supporting these efforts, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) joined in the World Wildlife Day celebrations earlier this month, with the central theme "It's Time to Get Serious about Wildlife Crime". It highlighted the fact that, the illegal harvesting and trade in wildlife not only poses a direct threat to wildlife

populations, but also helps to finance criminal groups and undermines the rule of law, peace and security, and sustainable development.

UNEP is offering assistance through technical, policy, and capacity support provided directly to countries. It also facilitates access to the Global Environment Facility and other resources, including the African Elephant Fund, and advances on demand side strategies.

UNEP also concentrates on enacting the UNEA Resolution on Illegal Wildlife Trade, which calls for reinforced actions and enhanced international coordination to counter the illegal trade in wildlife. The resolution strongly encourages governments to implement their commitments to fight the illegal trade through, among other things, targeted actions to eradicate supply, transit and demand for illegal wildlife products. It promotes zero-tolerance policies and the development of sustainable and

alternative livelihoods for communities adversely affected by the illegal trade.

UNEP was requested to undertake a number of activities to further efforts in this area, including: providing an analysis of the environmental impacts of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products to the next UNEA session, to raise public awareness about the issue and to work closely with the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, CITES, UNDP and the Secretary General's Rule of Law Group. UNEP was also requested to support governments to develop and implement environmental rule of law mechanisms at the national level. UNEP looks forward to continuing to collaborate with and support our Member States in the implementation of the commitments from London and Kasane.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE LNG DISTRIBUTION STATION IN KLAIPEDA DOESN'T REQUIRE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Akshat Kumar, 3rd Year

The Environmental Protection Agency (AAA) has stated that the construction of the planned Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) distribution station, owned by state company AB Klaipėdos Nafta, does not require environmental impact assessment, reports LETA/ELTA, referring to Vakarų ekspresas. Yet, proposals to revise these findings

may still be submitted by the end of October. The company expects that the construction agreement will be signed with the contractor in early December. The heads of Klaipėdos Nafta had said numerous times that their current goal is to make the LNG terminal's activities as efficient as possible "in order to reduce its sustenance cost for Lithuanian

consumers as much as possible". Already since the beginning of 2015, when the terminal's commercial activities were launched, Klaipėdos Nafta created possibilities to refill LNG from the floating storage re-gasification unit Independence to smaller tankers. (Courtesy- Petras Vaida, BC, Vilnius, Lithuania, 7 October 2015)

UN FORUM ON FORESTS XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, 2nd Sept, 2015

Member States at the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests in May 2015 renewed the mandate of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and agreed on a roadmap to promote the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management. This session extended the International Agreement beyond 2015 and also approved a wide-ranging omnibus resolution, which would have the Economic and Social Council extend until 2030 the International Arrangement of actors involved in the management, conservation and sustainable development of the world's woodlands, and lay out — for the first time — the main objectives of such work for the coming decades.

In furtherance to strengthen its objectives to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests; enhance forests' contribu-

tion to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda; enhance cooperation, coordination and coherence on forest-related issues at all levels; foster international cooperation; support efforts to strengthen both forest governance frameworks and the political commitment to achieve those objectives, the UNFF Secretariat organised a side event at the XIV World Forestry Congress entitled "International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015" held from Monday 7-11 September 2015 at Durban South Africa. The Congress came up with the Durban Declaration and offered a vision for forests and forestry as a way of contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These visions outlines forests as a fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods, generating income and employment stabilising soils and climate and flow of water. It also highlighted the importance of integrated approaches to land use and forests as an

- *Sweden Doley, 4th Year*

essential solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Acknowledging the urgency of addressing climate change threats, the XIV World Forestry Congress participants recommend the increase understanding of climate change among governments and other stakeholders; increase understanding of the challenges and opportunities for governments and other stakeholders in addressing climate change; continue increasing the availability and quality of information to assist policymakers in decision-making; encourage the assessment and communication of progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation; and promote partnerships and South-South exchanges to benefit from existing and increasing experience and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation actions on the ground.

EUROPEAN APPROVAL FOR UK WASTE DISPOSAL CHARGES

The Pricing Methodology for Waste Transfer Contracts between the UK Government and operators of new nuclear power plants meets European State Aid Rules, the European Commission has concluded.

The methodology sets the price that operators of any new nuclear power plants built in the UK will have to pay for the final disposal of the intermediate- and high-level wastes generated from them in a planned national repository. The methodology aims to ensure that, the cost of disposing of this waste is borne by the plant operators and not by the taxpayer. Plant operators will

be expected to set aside sufficient funds to cover their future liabilities.

The methodology will establish a Waste Transfer Price that, reflects the actual disposal costs. However, it noted that, this price will only be determined when most of the currently unknown costs factors of the repository have become clear. This is expected to be about 30 years after the start of operation of any new plant. The price will cover all projected variable and fixed costs linked to the disposal of used fuel and intermediate-level waste, plus "an appropriate risk premium" to reflect possible cost increases after the setting of the price.

- *Nishigandha Paniphukan, 4th Year*

The UK Government has set a price cap to provide some visibility of future liabilities to attract investors and secure financing. Europe's approval of the waste transfer contract means that, for the first time, the eventual decommissioning and waste management costs associated new nuclear power plants - such as EDF Energy's planned Hinkley Point C - will be paid by the generator at the time of generation. The cost of this Funded Decommissioning Program has already been taken into account in the strike price agreed by EDF Energy and the government for electricity generated by Hinkley Point C. (Courtesy- World Nuclear News, 9 October 2015)

DAM-RACE' A WAR WITHOUT A SHOT

- Akanchha Srivastava, 3rd Year

India, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan are engaged in a huge "water grab" in the Himalayas, as they seek new sources of electricity to power their economies. Taken together, the countries have plans for more than 400 hydro dams which, if built, could together provide more than 160,000MW of electricity – three times more than the UK uses. In addition, China has plans for around 100 dams to generate a similar amount of power from major rivers rising in Tibet. Many of the proposed dams would be among the tallest in the world, able to generate more than 4,000MW. As a result, Himalayas can become the most dammed region in the world in the next 20 years. China-India disputes have shifted from land to water. Water is the new divide and is going centre stage in politics. Only China has the capacity to build such mega-dams and the power to crush resistance. And such 'Dam-race' is

effectively a war without a shot being fired." India aims to construct 292 dams, doubling the current hydropower capacity and contributing 6% to projected national energy needs. If all dams are constructed as proposed, in 28 of 32 major river valleys, the Indian Himalayas would have one of the highest average dam densities in the world, with one dam for every 32km of river channel. Every neighbour of India with undeveloped hydropower sites is building or planning to build multiple dams, totalling at minimum 129 projects.

China, which is building multiple dams on all the major rivers running off the Tibetan plateau, is likely to emerge as the ultimate controller of water for nearly 40% of the world's population. Himanshu Thakkar, Co-ordinator of South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, reiterated the effects of this race which could increase floods and vulnerability to earthquakes, due to lack of credible environmental and

social impact assessments, environmental compliance system, cumulative impact assessment and capacity studies. All the dams are being built in rivers that are fed by glaciers and snowfields which are melting at a fast rate. Authorities are ignorant on the issues relating to climate change on the rivers. Climate models suggest that major rivers running off the Himalayas, after increasing flows as glaciers melt, could lose 10-20% of their flow by 2050. This would not only reduce the rivers' capacity to produce electricity, but would exacerbate regional political tensions. Construction of Dams witnessed protest movements in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam and other northern states of India and in Tibet. But the protest went without being addressed by the authorities. (Courtesy: The Guardian, 11 September, 2015)

UN LAUNCHES MECHANISM TO PROMOTE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Alok Pandey, 2nd Year

A Technology Facilitation Mechanism that seeks to promote science, technology and innovation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable was launched at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, when over 150 Heads of State and Government officially adopted the new agenda.

To mark the mechanism's launch, the Governments of Brazil and France, with the support of the UN Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, co-hosted a high-level side event, bringing together multi-stakeholders including Member States, the UN system, civil society, private sector, scientific community, UN entities and academia. The high-level representatives expressed their

expectations in relation to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), how it could help achieve the 2030 Agenda and how their countries or organizations are prepared to support its operation. The mechanism is the first major United Nations initiative to support the implementation of the SDGs since the Addis Ababa Third International Conference on Financing for Development was held earlier this year. It will be based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The mechanism is comprised of a United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation (STI); an annual multi-stakeholder forum; and an online platform as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs.

"Technology can help us live up to the

promise to leave no one behind, the technology facilitation mechanism is a new important tool that can make this possible", said Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN. But he also said that, the transformative Sustainable Development Goals would only be meaningful once we start implementing and working in a determined way to make them happen. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France, highlighted the important role of technology in the context of the climate negotiations in Paris at the end of the year. A commitment from all parties, private investments, and international partnerships would be needed. (Courtesy- Commission on Sustainable Development news coverage)

US CELEBRATES "FOREST MAN OF INDIA"

The Bridgewater Township Shade Tree Board (Team Arbor) and the Assam Foundation of North America have announced that, a Tree Dedication Ceremony will be organised that will honour Jadav Payeng, who is an internationally acclaimed conservationist from Assam. It will be held at Chimney Rock Park, Martinsville on October 17, 2015. The event will include a memorial tree dedication, live music and folk dance form of Assam. Payeng is credited with transforming 1400

acre barren river sandbar of Jorhat District of Assam into a bustling and lush green forest ecosystem by planting and nurturing thousands of saplings. Thirty-four years ago when he began to plant trees, no one had the slightest idea that his effort would give birth to an entire forest. In appreciation of his single handed efforts, the Assam government has named the forest he helped grow after him, as Mulai Kathoni Bari or the forest of Mulai, Payeng's pet name. In 2012, India's premier educational institution, the Jawaharlal Nehru University

(JNU) named him the 'Forest Man of India'.

The celebration also marks the achievement of Bridgewater being recognised as a "Tree City" of the United States. The Tree City USA Programme is sponsored by the Arbor Foundation (whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees" with the US Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. (Courtesy: Assam Tribune, 12 October 2015; Aljazeera, 23 January 2014)

- *Rashmi Patowary, 5th Year*

CLIMATE CHANGE 2014 SYNTHESIS REPORT FIFTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Synthesis Report (SYR) of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) provides an overview of the state of knowledge concerning the science of climate change, emphasizing new results since the publication of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 (AR4).

Observed Changes and Causes

Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.

Future Climate Changes, Risks and Impacts

Continued emission of greenhouse

gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. Limiting climate change would require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.

Future Pathways for Adaptation, Mitigation and Sustainable Development

Adaptation and mitigation are complementary strategies for reducing and managing the risks of climate change. Substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond, increase

prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development.

Adaptation and Mitigation

Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link mitigation and adaptation with other societal objectives.

(Courtesy- <http://ar5-syr.ipcc.ch/>, accessed on October 15th, 2015)

- *Mohit Singh, 2nd Year*

CASE ANALYSIS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HOW NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ABANDONED ITS TRADITIONAL APPROACH IN DECIDING CASES: *Mohar Singh Yadav v. Union of India & Ors.*

- Neil Dutta. 5th Year

Due to its pro-environment judgments and orders, since its inception the National Green Tribunal has been always on news with some capitalist authors terming NGT's views as anti-economic and regressive to India's interests. However, certain decisions do show that NGT's decisions does not only comprises inclinations towards the environment but, also show its attempt to bridge the gap between economic interests and environment concerns.

The same approach has been taken in the recent judgment on Mohar Singh Yadav v. Union of India & Ors. wherein, the Tribunal has ventilated its willingness to consider sustainable development as a necessary option contrary to the popular beliefs. The Applicant in this case is the President of the Bundelkhand Majdoor and Kisan Kalyan Samiti, Jhansi (UP); a Registered Society with the solemn objective of safeguarding the rights and interests of the laborers and farmers of the Bundelkhand region. The Applicant moved against the Environment Clearance granted by the MOEF&CC to the Lalitpur Power Generation Company Ltd. for establishing a 3x660 Mega Watt Imported Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at villages Mirchwara and Burogaon in Mahroni Taluk of District Lalitpur (UP). The Applicant alleged that, besides violating the conditions in the order granting Environmental Clearance to the project, they have also violated the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974. The Applicant claimed that, the Respondent Company has undertaken illegal activities to draw out water from the rivers Sajnam and Utari for its thermal plant; the company has also constructed artificial walls to divert the flow of water and

demolished the existing check dams built on the rivers. These have resulted into depletion of natural aquifers in the area and have depleted the water volume in the rivers, which is detrimental to the local agriculture activities. The Respondent Company through its reply claimed that, it has authorizations from appropriate authority to undertake such works and each tasks undertaken were necessary to maintain the flow of water in that area which is often hit by droughts.

The NGT while applying its judicial mind came into the conclusion that, neither the application should be allowed in its full terms (in happening of which the project would come to an abrupt halt) nor a complete allowance of the existing works should be undertaken by the Respondent Company, as it is affecting the local ecosystem. Therefore, while declining to grant relief for cancellation of Environmental Clearance as prayed by the applicant, the Tribunal goes on to say that,

“Drawl of water from this Check Dam for industrial use would be unreasonable and would affect the rights of the people living in the affected villages. Despite this fact, it will be opposed to the Principal of Sustainable Development, if the unit is asked to shut down its operations, including the trial run, especially when appropriate directions can be issued for preventing and controlling the likely adverse effects upon the ecology of the area”

The NGT hence said, that if, the water is extracted from the Check Dams; it can prejudicially affect both these aspects, which are fundamentally of ecological and environmental concern,

therefore a team of officers from the MoEF&CC, CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board), UP Pollution Control Board and Irrigation Department of the Government of UP would conduct an inspection and ensure that temporary abstraction of water from the Buragaon Check Dam is permitted without any adverse effect either on the agricultural activities or upon recharging of the ground water. The Committee upon physical inspection would ensure that, if the drawl of 10 cusecs of water from the Old Check Dam is causing or has caused to the agriculturists any hardships or has adversely affected the recharging of ground water, then minimum required average flow from Kachnoda Dam shall be maintained, in order to make up deficiency of water at Burogaon Check Dam. If for any reason, this were not feasible, then the company would not be allowed to draw any water. It further issued order as to providing adequate compensation to the local farmers if the drawl of water is affecting their livelihood. The Tribunal ordered immediate completion of the project within 3 months from the date of judgment and after the project is completed no such drawl of water would be allowed from the rivers as well as the dams.

Through this judgment NGT showed that, compromises are necessary for economic development however, if such compromises are affecting ecosystem drastically or has caused loss of livelihood or sustenance, then such activities should be withdrawn immediately. Despite of this view, still this judgment has projected a positive progress in sustainable development.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCES

- Abhishek Khare, 2nd Year

CEWIT2015 — 12th International Conference & Expo on Emerging Technologies for a Smarter World

Dates	19 Oct 2015 - 20 Oct 2015
Location	Melville, United States
Weblink	http://www.cewit.org/conference2015

CAWCR Annual Workshop 2015 — Coupled Modelling and Prediction: from Weather to Climate

Dates	19 Oct 2015 → 22 Oct 2015
Location	Melbourne
Abstract	The Collaboration for Australian Weather and Climate Research (CAWCR) is pleased to announce its 9th Annual Workshop to be held at the Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, from the 19-22 October 2015. The workshop will bring together Australian experts from the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, the Universities and Research Centres, as well as a number of prominent overseas scientists. This year's workshop will focus on coupled modelling and prediction across weather and climate timescales. It will address the status and prospects for improving our understanding, simulation and prediction of coupled processes, particularly as related to advancing our capability to predict high impact weather and climate.
Weblink	http://cawcr.gov.au/events/AWS9/index.php
Related Subject(s)	Meteorology and Climate Change; Oceanography

International Conference on Ocean, Environment, and Ecotoxicology

Dates	20 Oct 2015 → 24 Oct 2015
Location	Malang, Indonesia
Weblink	http://icoee2015.ub.ac.id

6th Annual Shale Gas Environmental Summit

Dates	26 Oct 2015 - 27 Oct 2015
Location	London, United Kingdom
Abstract	Conference will discuss the risks shale gas poses to health and human rights, evaluate solutions for the issue to waste water and leakage and ultimately strive to attain a balanced insight into the environmental debate surrounding shale gas.
Weblink	http://www.shalegassummit.co.uk/cservice
Related Subject(s)	Shale gas, environment, regulation, human rights, fracking, energy, waste water, drilling.

ESBCP-BIOCICON 2015 — International Conference of Eco-friendly Applied Biological Control of Agricultural Pests and Phytopathogens

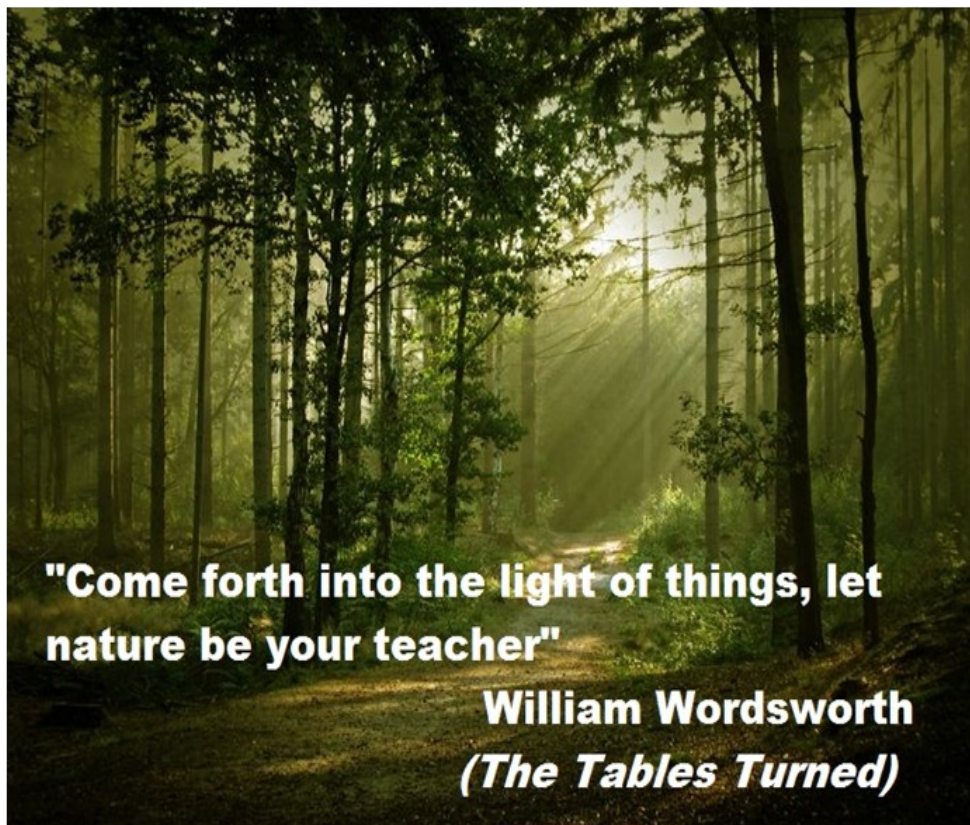
Dates	20 Oct 2015 → 23 Oct 2015
Location	Cairo, Egypt
Abstract	The Egyptian Society for Biological Control of Pests (ESBCP) in collaboration with the Crop Protection Research Centre, St. Xavier's College Palaynkottai, Tamil, Nadu, India has the pleasure to welcome and invite scientists, researchers, academicians, and those who are involved with various aspects of the economic importance of the field of Biological Control from government agencies, universities, research and extension institutions, organic farming, and international agencies to present and exchange expertise of all regional aspects of Biological Control, including recent development related to environment – friendly pest management strategies.
Weblink	http://www.esbcp.org
Related Subject(s)	Agronomy, Food Production and Food Chemistry

ENVICON — ENVICON International Environmental Protection Congress

Dates	26 Oct 2015 - 27 Oct 2015
Location	Poznan, Poland
Abstract	ENVICON International Environmental Protection Congress is a prestigious annual meeting of representatives of public administration, science, firms, institutions, universities and government administrations from across Europe. The speakers will deliver a lot of professional knowledge concerning water and wastewater treatment, waste management, waste-to-energy technologies, sustainability, innovations and other vital issues and legal issues. This year's edition is 19th in a row and attracted many recognized experts like representatives of Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Supreme Audit Office, National Water Management Authority, RIPOK (Regional Plant for Municipal Waste Management), Environment Protection Committee, European Commission, European Environmental Bureau and hundreds of participants.
Weblink	http://envicon.abrys.pl/
Related Subject(s)	envicon, environmental protection, wastewater, wastewater treatment, waste management, energy-from-waste plant

TOWARDS A GREEN CAMPUS

*Mrs. Aparajita Dutta Hazarika,
Assistant Professor of English*



Nature is the best teacher. In order to create a green campus efforts have to be made by all concerned. Mention may be made of the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) which consists of students belonging to the University of Cape Town (UCT) who strive towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly institution. One of the many projects that they are involved with is Ridelink which seeks to reduce carbon emissions by the UCT community by promoting carpooling, bicycle use and public transport. The residential areas which throw up wastes everyday are also doing

their bit towards the environment. Dry and wet wastes are separated in the residential kitchens and while separate bins are earmarked for recyclable and non-recyclable goods. One of their success stories have been the Building-to-Building campaign which targets buildings one by one by encouraging the staff in the building to 'go green' by setting up an in-house recycling system, decreasing water and electricity consumption, and use poolcars. The GCI is a wonderful example of how each individual's response in providing a green and friendly environment can make a huge impact on the environment.

IIT Guwahati like its counterpart elsewhere, has a Green Office which was started in 2013. Its ambit includes designing a Project proposal on Solar Power Plant Commissioning and Operation, Central power switch in classrooms, Solid and toxic waste management, Minimising Central A.C. Electricity consumption, Solar Street Lighting, Solar Geysers at Hostels, Installation of energy meters, Sensitization of green technologies and sustainability. The main thrust area is to address North-east specific Green Research & Design so that these green initiatives can be sustained in the long run.

Enviro Trivia

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT, 1986 (UMBRELLA LEGISLATION)

- Adrita Bhuyan, 1st Year

Q. Name the event/accident that led to the consequent enactment of the Environment Protection Act, 1986?

Ans. Bhopal Gas Disaster in 1984.

Q. Purpose of the Environmental Protection Act was to ratify/implement the decisions of which international conference?

Ans. United Nations Conference on the Human Environments held at Stockholm, June, 1972.

Q. Why was the Environment Protection Act, 1986 designed?

Ans. To provide framework for central government coordination of activities if various central and state authorities established under previous laws such water act and air act.

Q. Under which article is the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 constituted?

Ans. Article 253.

Q. The Chawla Committee stressed heavily on the need for an umbrella legislation for water allocation. What was the main idea behind it?

Ans. The Chawla committee has stressed the need for an umbrella legislation for water allocation and suggested that this state subject be either brought on the concurrent list or be covered under a model law template for adoption by states and doing away with multiple legislation over ownership of water resources, an obstacle in optimal use.

Q. How does the EPA 1986 define the essentially broad term 'ENVIRONMENT'?

Ans. ENVIRONMENT includes water, air and land and the inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air and land, and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organism and property.

Q. What are the main objectives of the EPA 1986?

Ans. To provide for the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1972 and for implementation of the decisions so far as they relate to the protection and improvement of environment and the prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property.

HAZARDOUS WASTE (MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING) RULES, 1989.

- Lidia Kharmih, 1st Year

Q. What is the definition of "exporter" under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989?

Ans. Exporting country and any person under the jurisdiction of the exporting country.

Q. Packaging, labelling and transport of hazardous wastes shall be in accordance with the provisions of which act?

Ans. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Q. Import of hazardous wastes from any country to India and export of hazardous wastes from India to any country for dumping or disposal shall not be permitted'. However, import may be granted by Central Government on what grounds?

Ans. If it is to be used for processing or reuse as raw material.

Photo Credit– Kasturika Bhardwaj, 5th Year

WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972

Q. What is the main objective of this act?

Ans: Effectively controlling poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

Q. Which authority can declare the intention of bringing an area under its jurisdiction to be a Wildlife Sanctuary and under which section?

Ans: State Government, section 18; Or the Central Government when the State Government leases or transfers any area under its control to the Central Government, under section 18 to 35(Both inclusive), 54 and 55.

Q. What are the purposes for which the Chief Wildlife Warden grants a permit into the premises of a Wildlife Sanctuary?

Ans: Investigation or study of wildlife; photography; tourism; transaction of any lawful business with a person residing in the sanctuary.

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Ans: Investigation or study of wildlife; photography; tourism; transaction of any lawful business with a person residing in the sanctuary.

Q. What was introduced to the The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by the amendment in 1982 ?

Ans. Provisions permitting the capture and transportation of wild animals for the scientific management of animal population.

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ACT, 2010

Q. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution was the NGT Act enacted?

Ans. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Q. Who was the first Chairman of the NGT and who is the present Chairman of NGT?

Ans. Justice Lokeshwar Singh Pant, Justice Swatanter Kumar.

Q. What are the other countries apart from India to have taken up the tribunal system regarding environment?

Ans. Australia and New Zealand.

Q. What is the criteria for becoming a Chairman of the NGT?

Ans. Serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court or Judge of a Supreme Court

CALL FOR PAPERS**JOURNAL OF ENVIRO-LEGAL RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY****NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, ASSAM****CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH**

National Law University, Assam's **Centre for Environmental Law, Advocacy & Research (CELAR)** is delighted to announce the launch of the first issue (**December, 2015**) of JOURNAL OF ENVIRO-LEGAL RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY (**JoE.LRA.**)

JOURNAL OF ENVIRO-LEGAL RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY is an online journal of environmental law dedicated to delve into the critical environmental law and policy aspects of India. It is an open access, annual, peer reviewed digital publication from NLU, Assam's CELAR.

We would like to invite you to contribute a Research Paper/ Research Article/ Case Study/ Case Comments/ Legislative Analysis/Book Review for publication in **JoE.LRA.**

The submissions should be in English. British spelling is preferred, but consistent American spelling is accepted. All contributions will be held to imply that it contains original unpublished work and is not being submitted for publication elsewhere. All suitable papers are submitted to double-blind peer review. Principal theme of our Launch issue is **“North-East India- The Land of Green Belt”**

The Sub themes are as follows:

1. Biodiversity related laws and North-East India;
2. The Rights of Indigenous people in North-East India and environment;
3. Armed conflict in North-East India and its impact on environment;
4. Climate Justice and North-East India;
5. Pollution related Laws and North-East India;
6. Wildlife related Laws and North-East India;
7. Forest Laws and North-East India;
8. Poverty and Environment- The North-Eastern scenario;
9. Environment and Natural Resources Management Law vis-à-vis North-East India;
10. Mining in North-East India and Law.

For Book Reviews- current books (post 2013-14) on topics related to environmental law (preferably Indian)

For Case Commentaries- National Green Tribunal's order, Supreme Court of India's Judgment (Preferably an environmental related issue in North-East India)

All submissions along with cover letter (about the author, acknowledgement of originality) must be submitted in .doc or .docx file format and should be emailed to: **celar@nluassam.ac.in**

- **For Articles-** 5000-6000 words
- **Case Commentaries-** 3000-4000
- **Book Reviews-** 2000-3000 words
- **Case Studies-** 4000-5000 words

Last Date for Submission- 30th November, 2015 (11:59 pm)

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